

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

41 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017, 697-5100

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM NEWS

STATION WBAI/FM

DATE July 2, 1974

6:30 PM

CITY New York

THE CIA AND WATERGATE

NICK EAGLETON: That's it for Nixon's politics abroad, but there were developments on the home front. Senator Baker, who has been conducting an investigation of the CIA's involvement with Watergate, today released his report. Paz Cohen has been examining it and extracting some interesting information.

PAZ COHEN: In a move some of his colleagues have criticized as an attempt to divert attention from White House involvement in those matters known collectively as "Watergate," Republican Senator and Nixon Loyalist Howard Baker has released a report highlighting possible CIA involvement in those illegal domestic actions and noting briefly other probable CIA domestic activities.

The report blows the cover on the CIA-backed public relations firm of Mullen & Company, which employed former CIA operative and convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, and the paper indicates that Mullen President Robert Bennett knew prior to the Democratic National Committee break-in that McGovern campaign headquarters was targeted by a White House break-in team. Bennett, according to the report, acted as go-between for plumbers Hunt and Liddy for two weeks after the Watergate break-in. Hunt is said to have had extensive contact with the CIA after August 31st, 1971, although Deputy CIA Director Vernon Walters said there had been no further contact past that date.

Further, drawing largely on CIA testimonies and material, the report suggests the FBI was deceived by the CIA concerning CIA collusion in destruction of files held by Watergate conspirator and ex-CIA agent James McCord just after McCord's arrest.

Former CIA Director Helms is cited in the report for ordering destruction of CIA tapes approximately one week after he was asked by Senator Mike Mansfield to save evidentiary material. Certain transcripts were also reportedly destroyed, possibly including conversations with Mr. Nixon, Haldeman, Erlichman